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The Proposed Amendments of the Constitution of the United States during the First Century of its History. By HERMAN V. AMES, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania. [Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the year 1896, Vol. II.] (Washington: Government Printing Office. 1897 [1898]. Pp. 442.)

THIS essay won the prize awarded by the American Historical Association for the best monograph based upon original investigation in history, submitted to the Council in 1896. It is a work of great value and interest to all students of American history, and no investigator into the development of our Constitution or the growth of our political institutions can afford to overlook it. The production of the monograph proves the wisdom of the Association in offering the prize, which we hope will result in a series of similar researches, even if they do not reach the excellence of this essay by Professor Ames. Scholars of constitutional history have long felt indebted to Professor Albert Bushnell Hart for the investigations into the journals and documents of Congress pursued in his seminary at Harvard. And this, the author of which gracefully acknowledges the aid of Professor Hart, is of the same character although superior to the rest.

The book begins with a brief historical summary of the amendments proposed. They are then described in detail, classified in accordance with their respective subjects, accompanied by an account of the circumstances which suggested them. This, the principal part of the essay, displays wide learning as well as microscopic research, and is a magazine of curious facts, many of which are little known, that will be invaluable to any future historian. The conclusion is a chronological list of all the officially proposed amendments that Professor Ames has found, some of which were not published in the Journals but have been copied by him from the archives of the Senate and of the state legislatures. The catalogue contains more than 1740 propositions, from which have resulted the fifteen that have been adopted. The inaction of the lower house of the legislature of South Carolina in 1811 alone prevented the ratification of a sixteenth amendment, which would have been the thirteenth in consecutive order, providing that the acceptance of a title of nobility or honor should be a forfeiture of citizenship of the United States and a disqualification for office "under them or either of them." This passed Congress against but eight dissenting votes, was ratified by the legislatures of twelve states—in Pennsylvania unanimously,—and by the Senate of South Carolina; and the belief that it had become a part of the Constitution was so widely entertained that it was printed as adopted in official publications until 1817 and in school histories as late as 1836 (pp. 187-189).

The results from this and other searches in the Journals of Congress should lead to a new field for the investigators of the original sources of our constitutional and institutional history, who are now working in the

universities. The journals of the state legislatures form an almost uncultivated province which will yield rich results to the patient explorer. His labors there will be rewarded not only by the discovery of the sources of many of the most important provisions of state constitutions that have been copied throughout the country and of statutes that have been copied throughout the world, the history of which is still unwritten ; but also by unearthing precedents in conflicts between the three departments, the executive, the legislative and the judiciary, between the two houses of a legislature and between one house and a minority of its members, which will be of great value to statesmen in future crises of our national history.

If the prizes offered by the American Historical Association will encourage studies in this direction, all scholars whose vocations deprive them of the pleasure of such original research will be as grateful to these students as they are now to Professor Ames.

ROGER FOSTER.

The Journal of Jacob Fowler, narrating an Adventure from Arkansas through the Indian Territory, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico, to the Sources of Rio Grande del Norte, 1821-22. Edited with notes by ELLIOTT COUES. (New York: Francis P. Harper. 1898. Pp. xxiv, 183.)

"I LOVE ballads in print for then we know they are true." This knowledge of Mopsa's we all have in reading Fowler's *Journal*. We feel it to be as true as print or preaching. Lying is not easy when one writes to aid his own memory.

Jacob Fowler made a land journey of thirteen months from Covington, Ky., to Taos and back again. His narrative begins with his departure from Fort Smith, Ark., September 6, 1821. He was second in command in a horseback party of traders and trappers twenty strong. Their route was along a branch of the Arkansas reaching that river near the southern line of Kansas. They made the earliest recorded march up that stream to the site of the modern Pueblo. Thence five of the company crossed the mountains to Santa Fe. Their absence was alarmingly long, but after four weeks they returned with permission to trap and trade in the Spanish provinces. Accordingly they followed the Taos trail, and arrived in Taos after ten days of mountain march. Thence five of them pushed on up the Rio Grande not only to the site of Pike's block-house where he was captured by Spaniards, but within one day's travel of the reported head of that river. The return homeward was partly down the Arkansas, and then over to the Missouri near Kansas City.

The memoranda jotted down from day to day by Major Fowler relate to a world in much of which he was the earliest explorer. They ought to have been published long ago. His experience as a land-surveyor doubled the value of his observations. Streams, their beds and water, water-powers, springs, trees, lime, coal, hills, prairies, animals, nothing escaped him. Multitudes in Kansas and Colorado will greet his book with a double welcome. Thanks to the illuminating topography of Dr.